

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) An endoscopic suture apparatus comprising:
 - an endoscope including an insertion section;
 - a puncture member ~~which has at least one sharp tip~~;
 - a holding member which holds the puncture member and which has a distal end portion and a proximal end portion, the proximal end portion thereof being is removably attached to ~~an~~ a distal end portion of the endoscope insertion section;
 - a clamping member which is configured to move back and forth with respect to the endoscope and to clamp living tissues, and
 - a drive member which is configured to move the puncture member,wherein the holding member has an opening portion which opens to ~~an~~ the distal end portion thereof; the opening portion, the distal end portion of the endoscope insertion section and the holding member define a treatment space; the clamping member is configured to project from the opening portion through the treatment space to clamp the living tissues, and retreat ~~from and into the opening portion through the treatment space to penetrate the living tissues by the puncture member~~; and the puncture member is configured to move in the treatment space to penetrate the living tissues, in a direction that intersects with a longitudinal direction of the ~~endoscope~~ insertion section.
2. (Original) The endoscopic suture apparatus according to claim 1, which further comprises a receiving member configured to engage with the puncture member, and in which the puncture member is configured to move from a first position to a second position and pass through the treatment space, the first and second positions being outside and inside the

treatment space, respectively, and the receiving member engages with the puncture member when the puncture member moves to the second position.

3. (Original) The endoscopic suture apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the holding member is deformable to change a size of the treatment space.

4. (Original) The endoscopic suture apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the holding member has a first member and a second member which define the treatment space, and the first and second member are moved relative to each other to change a size of the treatment space.

5. (Currently amended) An endoscopic suture apparatus comprising:

an endoscope including an insertion section;

a clamping member which is configured to move in a longitudinal direction of the ~~endoscope~~ insertion section and to clamp living tissues;

a puncture member which ~~is to penetrate a~~ penetrates the living tissue tissues while the clamping member clamps the living tissues clamped by the clamping member; and

a drive member which is configured to move the puncture member in a direction that intersects with ~~a~~ the longitudinal direction ~~in which the clamping member is moved~~ of the insertion section, and to cause the puncture member to penetrate the living ~~tissue~~ tissues.

6. (Currently amended) The endoscopic suture apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the puncture member and the drive member are provided on ~~the~~ a first holding member which projects from and located at a distal end of the endoscope.

7. (Currently amended) The endoscopic suture apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the drive member is provided on ~~the~~ a first holding member which projects from a distal end

of the endoscope, and has a second holding member which opposes the first holding member across the clamping member.

8. (Original) The endoscopic suture apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the first holding member has a guide portion which guides the drive member in the same direction as the clamping member is moved, and a bent guide portion which guides the drive member in a direction intersecting with a direction in which the clamping member is moved.

9. (Original) The endoscopic suture apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the second holding member has a receiving member which engages with the puncture member penetrating the living tissue.

10. (Original) The endoscopic suture apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the second holding member is configured to rotate away from the clamping member.

11. (Original) The endoscopic suture apparatus according to any one of claims 5 to 8, wherein the drive member is a hollow needle, and the puncture member is arranged in the hollow needle.

12. (New) The endoscopic suture apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a fixing member for fixing the driving member to the endoscope.

13. (New) The endoscopic suture apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the driving member has a sheath which is fixed to the endoscope by the fixing member and an elongate member which travels in the sheath to move the puncture member.

14. (New) The endoscopic suture apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the puncture member keeps its penetrating state when a suture treatment is finished.

15. (New) The endoscopic suture apparatus according to claim 5, further comprising a fixing member for fixing the driving member to the endoscope.

16. (New) The endoscopic suture apparatus according to claim 15, wherein the driving member has a sheath which is fixed to the endoscope by the fixing member and an elongate member which travels in the sheath to move the puncture member.

17. (New) The endoscopic suture apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the puncture member keeps its penetrating state when a suture treatment is finished.